

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A The method for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations initiated from one or more host devices that desire to store data contents written to a first storage system to a second storage system over a communications link, said method comprising: as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said step d) further includes the step of

a) receiving copy services commands from said one or more host devices;

b) determining whether a received command pertains to a copy service over a PPRC relationship established for a particular customer to perform storage operations effecting data written to a first storage server having source volumes and stored in a remote second storage system having target volumes; and,

c) if it is determined that said PPRC relationship is already established for that customer, enabling execution of said copy services command involving data contents of source volumes and/or remote target volumes; and,

d) if it is determined in step b) that said PPRC relationship is not already established, determining whether said received command is from a storage service provider over a web-based user interface, and enabling execution of said copy services command if it is; and, if said received command is not from a storage service provider,

e) determining whether the copy service command effects any volume not already in a copy services relationship; and, one of

f) enabling execution of said copy services command if it does not effect any volume not already in a copy services relationship or,

g) preventing execution of said copy services command if it does effect any volume not already in a copy services relationship.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ system for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations initiated from one or more host devices that desire to store data contents written to a first storage system to a second storage system over a communications link, said system comprising: as claimed in Claim 3,

means for receiving copy services commands from said one or more host devices and determining whether a received command pertains to a copy service over a PPRC relationship established for a particular customer to enable that customer to perform storage operations effecting data written to a first storage server having source volumes and stored in a remote second storage system having target volumes; and,

means for enabling execution of said copy services command involving data contents of source volumes and/or remote target volumes if it is determined that said PPRC relationship is already established for that customer; and, preventing execution of said copy services command if the received copy services command does effect any volume not already in a copy services relationship; and, further comprising

a web-based interface for enabling a storage service provider to perform copy services involving data contents of said source volumes and/or said remote target volumes for customers.

5. (Original) The system for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations as claimed in Claim 4, wherein said web-based interface offers a secure communications connection for said storage service provider to perform copy services.

6. (Currently Amended) The system for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations as claimed in Claim [[3]] 4, wherein said copy services commands are ~~emmmuniated~~ communicated over in-band communication links from said host servers, said in-band communication links comprising one or more of: ESCON, FICON, FCP links.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A The program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations initiated from one or more host devices that desire to store data contents written to a first storage system to a second storage system over a communications link, said method comprising the steps of: as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said step d) further includes the step of

a) receiving copy services commands from said one or more host devices;

b) determining whether a received command pertains to a copy service over a PPRC relationship established for a particular customer to perform storage operations effecting data written to a first storage server having source volumes and stored in a remote second storage system having target volumes; and,

c) if it is determined that said PPRC relationship is already established for that customer, enabling execution of said copy services command involving data contents of source volumes and/or remote target volumes; and,

d) if it is determined in step b) that said PPRC relationship is not already established, determining whether said received command is from a storage service provider over a web-based user interface, and enabling execution of said copy services command if it is; and, if said received command is not from a storage service provider,

e) determining whether the copy service command effects any volume not already in a copy services relationship; and, one of

f) enabling execution of said copy services command if it does not effect any volume not already in a copy services relationship or,

g) preventing execution of said copy services command if it does effect any volume not already in a copy services relationship.

9. – 16. (Canceled)

17. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein a received copy services command includes: a Time Sharing Operation command, a Flashcopy copy command, a suspend or resynchronize command.

18. (New) The system for controlling peer-to-peer remote copy (PPRC) system operations as claimed in Claim 4, wherein a received copy services command includes: a Time Sharing Operation command, a Flashcopy copy command, a suspend or resynchronize command.

19. (New) The program storage device readable by a machine as claimed in Claim 8, wherein a received copy services command includes: a Time Sharing Operation command, a Flashcopy copy command, a suspend or resynchronize command.